



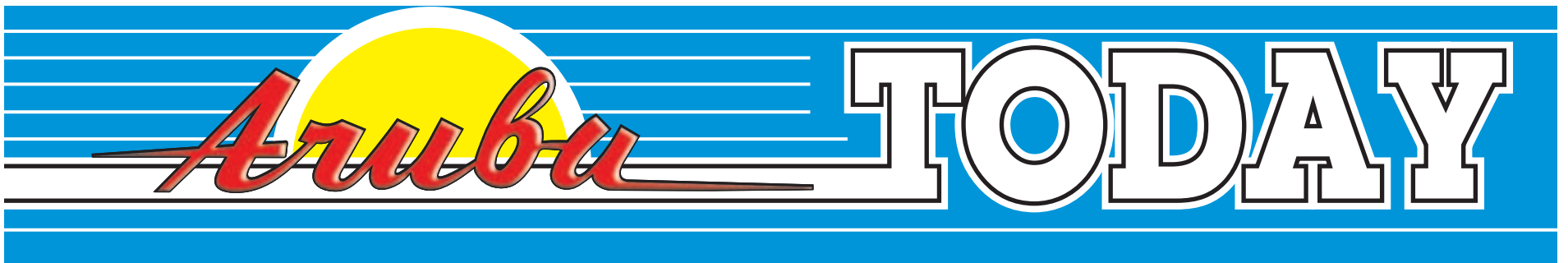
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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Monday, November 25, 2013

US CAUTIOUS ON HOLIDAYS

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This holiday season, Americans may not spend their green unless they see more red. Despite signs that the U.S. economy is improving, big store chains like Wal-Mart and Kohl's don't expect Americans to have much holiday shopping cheer unless they see bold, red signs that offer huge discounts. As a result, shoppers are seeing big sales events earlier and more often than in previous holiday seasons.



Shoppers approach Old Navy store at Atlantic Terminal Mall on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, in New York.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Retailers are trying to lure shoppers like Marissa Anwar, who has been doing more bargain hunting compared with last year. The operations consultant, who lives in Toronto and New York City, said the economy "hasn't been great" and she's lost clients.

Continued on Page 7



A NEW PATH

Accord reached to halt Iran nuclear program

From left, Germany's Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius greet each other and shake hands at the United Nations Palais, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Iran nuclear talks. A deal has been reached between six world powers and Iran that calls on Tehran to limit its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief, the French and Iranian foreign ministers said early Sunday.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, Pool)

MICHAEL R. GORDON

© 2013 New York Times

GENEVA - The United States and five other world powers announced a landmark accord Sunday morning that would temporarily freeze Iran's nuclear program and lay the foundation for a more sweeping agreement.

It was the first time in nearly a decade of talks, U.S. officials said, that an inter-

national agreement had been reached to halt much of Iran's nuclear program and roll some elements of it back. The aim of the accord, which is to last six months, is to give international negotiators time to pursue a more comprehensive pact that would ratchet back much of Iran's nuclear program and ensure that it could be used only for peaceful

purposes. Shortly after the agreement was signed at 3 a.m. in the Palace of Nations in Geneva, President Barack Obama, speaking from the State Dining Room in the White House, hailed it as the most "significant and tangible" progress of a diplomatic campaign that began when he took office. "Today, that diplomacy opened up a new path toward a world that is more

secure," he said, "a future in which we can verify that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and that it cannot build a nuclear weapon." In Geneva, the Iranian foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said he hoped the agreement would lead to a "restoration" of trust between Iran and the United States.

Continued on Page 2

Accord reached to halt Iran nuclear program

Continued from front

Smiling and avuncular, he reiterated Iran's longstanding assertion that its nuclear program was peaceful, adding that Iranians had been misunderstood by the West.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who flew to Geneva early Saturday for the second time in two weeks in an effort to complete the deal, said it would "require Iran to prove the peaceful nature of its nuclear program."

Iran, which has long resisted international monitoring efforts and built clandestine nuclear facilities, agreed

ready operating.

The agreement, however, does not require Iran to stop enriching uranium to a low level of 3.5 percent, or to dismantle any of its existing centrifuges.

The accord was a disappointment for Israel, which had urged the United States to pursue a stronger agreement that would lead to a complete end to Iran's enrichment program. But Iran made it clear that continuing enrichment was a prerequisite for any agreement.

The United States did not accept Iran's claim that it had a "right to enrich" under the nuclear non-prolif-

having to appeal to Congress, where there is strong criticism of any agreement that does not fully dismantle Iran's nuclear program.

The fact that the accord would only pause the Iranian program was seized on by critics who said it would reward Iran for institutionalizing the status quo.

Obama addressed those concerns in his speech, insisting that the easing of sanctions could be reversed if Iran failed to reach a final agreement or reneged on the terms of this one. "Nothing will be agreed to unless everything is agreed to," he said. He also noted the qualms



From left, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, gather at the United Nations Palais, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland, during the Iran nuclear talks. A deal has been reached between six world powers and Iran that calls on Tehran to limit its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief, the French and Iranian foreign ministers said early Sunday.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, Pool)

to stop enriching uranium beyond 5 percent, a level that would be sufficient for energy production but that would require further enrichment for bomb-making. To make good on that pledge, Iran will dismantle links between networks of centrifuges.

Its stockpile of uranium enriched to 20 percent, a short hop from weapons-grade fuel, would be diluted or converted into oxide so that it could not be readily used for military purposes. Iran agreed that it would install no new centrifuges, neither old models nor newer, more efficient ones, and not start up any centrifuges that are not al-

eration treaty. But American officials signaled last week that they were open to a compromise in which the two sides would essentially agree to disagree on how the proliferation treaty should be interpreted, while Tehran continued to enrich.

In return for the initial agreement, the United States agreed to provide \$6 billion to \$7 billion in sanctions relief. Of this, roughly \$4.2 billion would be oil revenue that has been frozen in foreign banks.

This limited sanctions relief can be accomplished by executive order, allowing the Obama administration to make the deal without

of Israel, Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf allies of the United States, saying they "had good reason to be skeptical of Iran's intentions." But he said he had a "profound responsibility" to test the possibilities of a diplomatic solution.

In Geneva, Kerry said of the agreement: "It will make our partners in the region safer. It will make our ally Israel safer."

The deal would also add at least several weeks, and perhaps more than a month, to the time Iran would need to produce weapons-grade uranium for a nuclear device, according to estimates by nuclear experts. □

Iran Deal: Winners & Losers

The Associated Press

The political balance sheet from Sunday's nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

WINNERS

DIPLOMACY: A 15-minute phone call in late September between U.S. President Barack Obama and Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, did more than break the diplomatic ice that had accumulated over 34 years. It became a rallying cry for those urging to revive stalled nuclear talks and test the "new era" claims of the moderate-leaning Rouhani after his election in June.

ASIAN OIL CUSTOMERS: Sanctions on Iran's oil exports will remain in place during the six-month period covered by the deal, but world powers promise no new economic measures against Tehran as long as compliance moves ahead. This is good news for energy-hungry Asian economies such as India, China and Japan, which have received U.S. waivers to continue Iranian oil imports.

DUBAI: Long before the Gulf city-state was a symbol of gilded excess, it prospered as a commercial crossroads with places such as Iran. Its ports and air cargo terminals were once brimming with Iran-bound goods. Sanctions have sharply cut into the traditional trade and livelihood of many in the large Iranian expatriate community in Dubai. Anything that brings back Iranian business, even in limited steps, is welcome in Dubai.

IRAN'S PRESIDENT: Rouhani often pitched the nuclear talks as a potential for a "win-win" outcome with the West. On one level, he got his take by securing a deal that allows Iran to maintain uranium enrichment — although at lower levels. His hard-line opponents would have pounced on anything that could have sacrificed Iran's nuclear self-sufficiency. It was likely Rouhani could have gone that route in any event. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said giving up enrichment was a "red line" in the talks.

LOSERS

ISRAEL: The message came quickly and loudly from Jerusalem: The deal is a mistake and puts Israel in greater peril. Many Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, see Iran's ability to enrich uranium as a recipe for potential disaster. Enrichment produces nuclear fuel for reactors but can also make weapons-grade material. No amount of persuasion from Israel's American allies could shake Netanyahu and others from the belief that Iran is a threat as long as it can enrich uranium.

SAUDI ARABIA: The oil-rich kingdom has to adjust to an unfamiliar role as opponents, rather than confidants, of Washington. First, Saudi leaders were dismayed when the U.S. abandoned longtime ally ex-Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to the fate of the Arab Spring uprising in 2011. Then Saudi authorities were angered by the U.S. decision to pull back from possible military strikes on the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad — attacks that could have helped the rebel forces closely aided by Riyadh and other Gulf states.

EGYPT: The military-backed leaders in Cairo have rolled back much of the Iran outreach by the Muslim Brotherhood-led government ousted in July. The nuclear deal and the possibility of expanding U.S.-Iran dialogue could cut into Egypt's traditional standing as the guiding force in shaping Western policy in the region. □

Wintry storm threatens Thanksgiving holiday travels



Enjoying the morning snow, Valerie Thompson tosses a ball for her dog Gus at Stardust Skies Park in Albuquerque, N.M., Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013 after a winter storm hits New Mexico over the weekend. A large storm already blamed for at least eight deaths in the West slogged through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and other parts of the southwest Sunday as it slowly churned east ahead of Thanksgiving.

(AP Photos/Jim Thompson)

NEW YORK (AP) A large storm already blamed for at least eight deaths in the West slogged through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and other parts of the southwest Sunday as it slowly churned east ahead of Thanksgiving. After the storm plows through the southwest, meteorologists expect the Arctic mass to head south and east, threatening plans for Tuesday and Wednesday as people hit the roads and airports for some of the busiest travel days of the year. Already, flight delays were expected at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, and a spokeswoman said deicing equipment was being prepared as officials planned for the worst in a flurry of conference calls and meetings. "It's certainly going to be a travel impact as we see the first few people making their way for Thanksgiving," National Weather Service meteorologist Tom Bradshaw said. The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for chunks of North Texas from noon Sunday until midday Monday. Parts of Oklahoma are also under a winter storm warning, while an advisory has been issued for other parts of the state. A mix of rain and sleet began falling north of Dallas on Interstate

35 by midday Sunday, and areas of southwestern Oklahoma woke up to several inches of snow. Several inches of snow fell overnight in Altus in far southwestern Oklahoma, said Damaris Machabo, a receptionist at a Holiday Inn motel. "It looks great. I love the snow," Machabo said. The snow and freezing temperatures made driving in the area treacherous, but Machabo said she had no problems getting to work early Sunday. Forecasts called for more snow in the area later in the day. Portions of New Mexico — especially in some of the higher elevations — also had several inches of snow, and near white out conditions were reported along stretches of Interstate 40 west of Albuquerque. Then along the New Mexico-Texas border, into the El Paso area, a mix of snow, sleet and ice forced some road closures and created messy driving conditions. Flagstaff in Arizona had 11 inches of snow by early Sunday, and was expected to get another inch by the end of the day before the storm petered out. Metro Phoenix and other parts of central Arizona received between 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches of rain over the course of the storm. The storms caused cancella-

tions of sporting events and parades and damaged the roofs of homes across Arizona. In Tucson, firefighters on Friday recovered the body of a man who was swept away by high water in the Santa Cruz River.

By early Sunday, the weather was blamed for at least eight deaths in several fatal traffic accidents. The storm also caused hundreds of rollover accidents, including one that injured three members of singer Willie Nelson's band when their bus hit a pillar on Interstate 30 near Sulphur Springs, about 75 miles northeast of Dallas. In Arizona, when 8,000 cyclists participated in a rainy biking race, one cyclist died in a collision with a vehicle.

Dallas prepared for the

storm by declaring "Ice Force Level 1," code for sending 30 sanding trucks to trouble shoot hazardous road conditions. At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, spokeswoman Cynthia Vega said American Airlines and American Eagle were planning to delay or cancel flights as the day progressed. The possibility of ice on the runways led to a series of conference calls and meetings early Sunday, she added, noting the airport had liquid and solid deicers ready for use. The storm system, though, was particularly hard to predict because a couple of degrees here or there with the temperature will determine whether regions see rain, sleet or snow, Bradshaw said. □

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Money, star power await Obama on fundraising tour

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Money, star power and Hollywood awaited President

mostly fundraising for a Democratic Party eager to go on offense after a politically debilitating two months.

San Francisco and Los Angeles, raising money for House and Senate Democrats as well as the national party.

tired basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson and his wife, Cookie, in Beverly Hills, California, and one at the house of Marta Kauffman, co-creator of television's "Friends."

The trip comes as Obama's health care law approaches a crucial Nov. 30 deadline for an improved insurance enrollment website whose catastrophic start on Oct. 1 dealt a serious political blow to the White House. Also, the U.S. and other world powers just sealed a historic deal with Iran for a temporary freeze of its nuclear program.

In addition to a half-dozen fundraisers, Obama intended to use the trip to keep the heat on Congress to pass an overhaul of immigration laws. He planned to address that issue during a stop Monday at a Chinese recreation center in San Francisco, and to promote his economic agenda Tuesday at the Dream-

Works Animation studio in Glendale, California.

In recent days White House officials have tried to draw attention back to the economy to avoid getting bogged down by the botched launch of the health care enrollment.

Lately, Obama has devoted time to raising money for the party, helping the Democratic National Committee reduce a massive 2012 debt and build up cash for House and Senate Democratic Committees.

The White House has been especially attentive to Senate Democrats to ensure that the party retains its majority in the chamber. The House is controlled by the Republican Party.

In Seattle, he was set to attend two events Sunday, one at the home of Tom Campion, co-founder of the clothing chain Zumiez, and the other at the house of a former Microsoft executive, Jon Shirley. □



President Barack Obama waves as he leaves the White House in Washington, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, for a trip to Seattle, Wash. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Barack Obama on a West Coast swing featuring a bit of official business but

Obama, who was departing Sunday afternoon, planned stops in Seattle,

High-profile events on the schedule included a reception at the home of re-

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Secrecy shrouds Sandy Hook investigation

MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press
HARTFORD, Connecticut
(AP) — A prosecutor is planning to release a report Monday on the investigation into the massacre

evidence file is a reversal of standard practice and one of the most unusual elements of an investigation marked by secrecy. "What I found troubling about the approach of the

patcher recordings, which are routinely released in other cases, has been the subject of a legal battle between The Associated Press and Sedensky before the state's Freedom of Information Commission, which ruled in favor of the AP, and now Connecticut's court system. A hearing is scheduled Monday in New Britain Superior Court on whether the judge can hear the recordings as he considers an appeal. At a hearing in June before the FOI commission, Sedensky, the state's attorney for the Danbury region, said he was spending roughly half his time on the Sandy Hook investigation between meetings with police and working with victims' families. Victims' relatives have said Sedensky told the fam-

ilies he would do what he could from a legal standpoint to address their concerns about what might be released publicly. One argument raised by Sedensky is that if identities of callers to the emergency dispatcher are released, they could be harassed by conspiracy theorists accusing them of being "crisis actors." Morgan Rueckert, an attorney representing 22 of the Sandy Hook victims' families, said some families still receive harassing phone calls from conspiracy theorists, but they are also concerned by the amount of attention that's been paid to the case and the ease with which records, once released, could be widely published and duplicated on the Internet. □



Connecticut Chief State's Attorney Kevin T. Kane listens to Sandy Hook Elementary School victim's families speak before The Task Force on Victim Privacy and the Public's Right to Know, in October, 2013, in Hartford, Conn. The families told the panel they don't want the 911 tapes from that day released to the public.
(AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

at Sandy Hook Elementary School, but the public will have to wait longer for the state police's full accounting of the crime. The decision to continue withholding the bulk of the evidence is stirring new criticism of the secrecy that has surrounded the probe since a gunman killed 20 children and six educators inside the school on Dec. 14. While the gunman took his own life and authorities are not contemplating any prosecutions, the lead investigator, State's Attorney Stephen Sedensky III, has gone to court to fight the release of tapes of calls to the emergency dispatcher, consulted privately with victims' families on what might be included in the report and resisted calls from Connecticut's governor to divulge more information sooner. In defense of their handling of records, investigators have cited the scale of the criminal investigation — perhaps the most extensive in Connecticut's history — and consideration for the victims' families, some of whom have lobbied for tighter restrictions on public information and complained of being harassed by conspiracy theorists. Dan Klau, a Hartford attorney who specializes in constitutional law, said the decision to release a summary report before the full

state's attorney is that from my perspective, he seems to have forgotten his job is to represent the state of Connecticut," Klau said. "His conduct in many instances has seemed more akin to an attorney in private practice representing Sandy Hook families." Sedensky said he could not comment. Mark Dupuis, a spokesman for Sedensky, said the summary released on Monday will not include the state police report, which is expected to total thousands of pages. It was not clear when the full report would be released. The gunman, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, killed his mother inside their Newtown home before driving to his former elementary school and gunning down 26 people with a semi-automatic rifle. He killed himself with a handgun as police arrived. So far, investigators have released little more than search warrants, which detailed an arsenal of weapons found inside the Lanza home. The information that authorities have not revealed includes the timeline of the police response to the shooting, any mental health records for Lanza and whether investigators found any clues to a possible motive for the rampage. The withholding of the emergency dis-

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Cocaine bust derails fledgling GOP congressman Radel

MICHAEL J. MISHAK
Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — From the outset, U.S. Rep. Trey Radel — a brash and digitally savvy darling of

ing vouchers and championed cuts in sheep-farm subsidies, of all things — pleaded guilty to cocaine possession, took a leave of absence from politics

maker known to few outside his southwest Florida district became America's "Cocaine Congressman," the first sitting member of Congress to be charged

public view. "But I do believe in faith, forgiveness and redemption."

The unseemly distinction of a drug arrest has derailed a promising political career and divided this quiet stretch of golf courses and retirement communities with the force of a hurricane. The largest daily newspapers and a growing number of Republican leaders in the district, which includes the Gulf Coast communities of Fort Myers and Naples, are demanding his resignation. Potential challengers are openly weighing primary bids. And late-night talk show hosts are once again focused on Florida.

"I can't wait for the 'School House Rock' on how a bill becomes a straw," cracked Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show."

Whether Radel remains a politician or a punch line is an open question. His office hasn't answered questions from The Associated Press since his Wednesday news conference.

On Thursday in downtown Fort Myers, his name elicited rolling eyes and hearty chuckles. Asked about Radel, several voters responded with one word: "Cocaine."

"If he were a coke-head kid working at McDonald's, he'd be out of a job," said Richard Bruehl, a retired general contractor.

Others were more supportive.

"We thought he was a really great guy to represent us," said Carol Hess, a retired business owner.

"We just hope he gets the rehab he needs and comes back and continues for us."

The lawmaker comes from a family that ran a funeral parlor on Cincinnati's heavily Catholic and conservative west side, where he helped run ceremonies and drove the hearse. This week he spoke about his mother's struggles with alcoholism and later her sudden death at his wedding; she choked on a piece of food.

After high school, he seemed to crave life in the public eye. He moved to Chicago to attend Loyola University, where he studied broadcast journalism and minored in Italian. He worked his way through college by bartending and briefly took classes at The Second City, the improvisational comedy outfit that trained John Belushi and Steve Carell. □



Congressman Trey Radel addresses the media at his office in Cape Coral. Last week Radel pleaded guilty to misdemeanor cocaine possession, receiving a 1-year probation sentence.
(AP Photo/Naples Daily News, Scott McIntyre)

the political right — was determined to make a name for himself. And so he has.

Just 10 months after being sworn in as a member of Congress, the rookie Republican — who supported drug testing for recipients of federal food purchas-

and checked into a rehabilitation center in Naples, Florida. It was his purchase of 3.5 grams of cocaine from an undercover officer in Washington's Dupont Circle neighborhood last month that caused it all to unravel.

In a flash, an ambitious law-

with a drug offense in more than three decades.

"I hope, like family, southwest Florida can forgive me for this. I've let them down," Radel, 37, said in an emotional late-night press conference Wednesday that marked an embarrassing retreat from



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US Financial Front:

Americans not willing to holiday shop without deals

Continued from front

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This holiday season, Americans may not spend their green unless they see more red. Despite signs that the U.S. economy is improving, big store chains like Wal-Mart

I have the money before I spend it."

It's a problem that retailers know all too well. Since the recession began in late 2007, stores have had to offer financially-strapped Americans ever bigger price cuts just to get them into stores. But those discounts eat away at profits.

sical advertising, is touting its prices in holiday TV ads for the first time in at least a decade.

The tempered expectations, earlier discounting and lowered profit outlooks from retailers come even though there are indications that the economy is recovering. The job market is making strides. The housing market is start-

ing to come back. And the stock market keeps hitting new highs. All that would ordinarily lead Americans to spend more.

But so far, those improvements haven't been enough to shore up consumer confidence. In fact, Americans' confidence in the economy is at its lowest level since April.

"Stores know that they are

well into a fight," said Ken Perkins, president of the research firm RetailMetrics. "The vast majority of consumers are distressed."

Not that there aren't glimmers of hope that Americans will spend again.

Retail sales were up 0.4 percent in October, after being flat the previous month, according to the Commerce Department. □



Shoppers enter a Best Buy on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, in New York. Despite signs that the economy is improving, big store chains like Wal-Mart and Kohl's don't expect Americans to have much holiday shopping cheer unless they see bold, red signs that offer huge discounts.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

and Kohl's don't expect Americans to have much holiday shopping cheer unless they see bold, red signs that offer huge discounts. As a result, shoppers are seeing big sales events earlier and more often than in previous holiday seasons.

Retailers are trying to lure shoppers like Marissa Anwar, who has been doing more bargain hunting compared with last year. The operations consultant, who lives in Toronto and New York City, said the economy "hasn't been great" and she's lost clients. As a result, she cut her shopping budget to \$2,800 from last year's \$4,000.





"I was a former 'spendaholic,'" said Anwar, 29. "Now, I want to make sure

So far, Wal-Mart, Target and Kohl's are among more than two dozen major chains that lowered their profit outlooks for either the quarter or the year. A big reason is the expectation that they'll have to offer huge discounts in order to get shoppers to spend.

There are already signs that retailers are aggressively discounting. Wal-Mart, for instance, on Friday started matching or beating the prices that certain competitors like Best Buy are advertising for some toys and electronics for the day after the Thanksgiving holiday — known as Black Friday. Best Buy also plans to match rivals' prices, even after customers have purchased items. And Target, better known for its whim-

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Modest deal breaks deadlock, moves UN climate talks forward

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Avoiding a last-minute breakdown, annual U.N. climate talks limped forward over the weekend with a modest set of decisions meant to pave the way for a new pact to fight global warming.

More than 190 countries agreed in Warsaw to start preparing "contributions" for the new deal, which is supposed to be adopted in 2015.

That term was adopted after China and India objected to the word "commitments" in a standoff with the U.S. and other de-

veloped countries.

The fast-growing economies say they are still developing countries and shouldn't have to take on as strict commitments to cut carbon emissions as industrialized nations.

"In the nick of time, negotiators in Warsaw delivered just enough to keep things moving," said Jennifer Morgan, of the World Resources Institute, an environmental think tank.

The conference also advanced a program to reduce deforestation and established a "loss and damage" mechanism to help island states and other vulnerable countries under



Young girls protest in front of the Polish Ministry of Economy in Warsaw, Poland. U.N. climate talks limped forward over the weekend with a modest set of decisions meant to pave the way for a new pact to fight global warming.

(AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski)

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threat from rising seas, extreme weather and other climate impacts.

The wording was vague enough to make rich countries feel comfortable that they weren't going to be held liable for climate catastrophes in the developing world. U.S. and other rich countries also resisted demands to put down firm commitments on how they plan to fulfill a pledge to scale up climate financing to developing countries to \$100 billion by 2020.

That money is meant to help developing countries transition to cleaner energy sources and adapt to shifts in climate that can affect agriculture, human health and economies in general. "I think we had a good outcome in the end. It was quite a tough negotiation," U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern said.

The U.N. climate talks were launched two decades ago after scientists warned that humans were warming the planet by pumping CO2 and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, primarily through the burning of fossil fuels. So far they've failed to reduce those emissions.

Historically, most emissions have come from the industrialized nations, but the developing world is catching up fast, driven by rapid growth in major countries including India, Brazil and China — the world's top carbon polluter.

Though China has invested heavily in renewable sources it's reluctant to promise emissions cuts internationally because it still gets almost 70 percent of its energy from coal, which produces the highest emissions of all fuels. □

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Vatican unveils bone fragments said to be Peter's

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican publicly unveiled a handful of bone fragments purportedly belonging to St. Peter on Sunday, reviving the scientific debate and tantalizing mystery over whether the relics found in a shoe box truly belong to the first pope.

The nine pieces of bone sat nestled like rings in a jewel box inside a bronze display case on the side of the altar during a Mass commemorating the end of the Vatican's yearlong celebration of the Christian faith. It was the first time they had ever been exhibited in public.

Pope Francis prayed before the fragments at the start of Sunday's service and then clutched the case in his arms for several minutes after his homily.

No pope has ever definitively declared the fragments to belong to the Apostle Peter, but Pope Paul VI in 1968 said fragments found in the necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica were "identified in a way that we can consider convincing."

Some archaeologists dispute the finding.

But last week, a top Vatican official, Archbishop

Rino Fisichella, said it almost doesn't matter if archaeologists one day definitively determine that the bones aren't Peter's, saying Christians have prayed at Peter's tomb for two millennia and will continue to, regardless. "It's not as if pilgrims who go to the altar (of Peter's tomb) think that in that moment in which they profess their faith that below them are the relics of Peter, or of another or another still," he told reporters. "They go there to profess the faith." The relics were discovered during excavations begun under St. Peter's Basilica in the years following the 1939 death of Pope Pius XI, who had asked to be buried in the grottoes where dozens of popes are buried, according to the 2012 book by veteran Vatican correspondent Bruno Bartoloni, "The Ears of the Vatican."

During the excavations, archaeologists discovered a funerary monument with a casket built in honor of Peter and an engraving in Greek that read "Petros eni," or "Peter is here."

The scholar of Greek antiquities, Margherita Guarducci, who had deciphered the engraving con-

tinued to investigate and learned that one of the basilica workers had been given the remains found in-

side the casket and stored them in a shoe box kept in a cupboard. She reported her findings to Paul VI who

later proclaimed that there was a "convincing" argument that the bones belonged to Peter. □



The relics of St. Peter are carried in procession prior to the start of a mass celebrated by Pope Francis for the end of the Year of Faith, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

Slovakia: Neo-Nazi wins regional election

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — A Slovak neo-Nazi whose party says NATO is a terrorist organization and wants the country to abandon Europe's common currency has won a regional election.

Marian Kotleba won 55.5 percent of votes in Saturday elections to lead the government in the central region of Banská Bystrica. Kotleba was chairman of the banned neo-Nazi Slo-

vak Togetherness-National Party, which organized anti-Roma rallies and expressed sympathy for the Slovak Nazi-puppet state during the World War II.

The results published Sunday show the leftist Smer-Social Democracy of Prime Minister Robert Fico winning six of the country's eight regions, cementing its position as Slovakia's strongest party. □

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Thousands of Ukrainians protest scrapping of trade pact with EU

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN
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KIEV, Ukraine - Tens of thousands of people marched through downtown Kiev on Sunday to protest the government's decision last week to abandon far-reaching political and free trade agreements with the European Union and instead focus on improving economic ties with Russia. Waving European Union flags, as well as the flags of Ukraine's main opposition parties, a sea of demonstrators chanting "Ukraine is Europe!" marched from Shevchenko Park through Independence Square, the main site of Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, and on to European Square for a rally in front of Ukrainian House, a famous building that houses a convention center.

Clusters of riot police officers were deployed along the route, drawing jeers from marchers but not interfering with the event.

"For young people, the future is brighter with Europe," said Maria Lysenko, 20, a student, who stood with her friend, Alyona Zorina, also 20, holding a sign that said, "Europe = Future Ukraine."

Zorina said President Viktor F. Yanukovich was acting out of selfishness and self-interest in deciding not to sign the agreements with the European Union. "He's more interested in his own

business dealings with Russia," she said.

The political and trade accords, which had been

pending its plans to complete the agreements.

On Sunday evening, several thousand protesters

clear whether the police or protesters had used it.

At one point, a lit flare was thrown at the police in gas

however, said that tension was building.

"The situation in society is boiling," said Svyatoslav



A pro-Russian activist fights against an opposition protester, center, while riot police fight against other protesters in front of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers in Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013. Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets to demand that the Ukrainian government reverse course and sign a landmark agreement with the European Union in defiance of Russia. The protest was the biggest Ukraine has seen since the peaceful 2004 Orange Revolution, which overturned a fraudulent presidential election result and brought a Western-leaning government to power.

(AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

in development for more than four years, had been scheduled to be signed this week at a major conference in Vilnius, Lithuania. But on Wednesday, the Ukrainian government announced that it had sus-

were engaged in a stand-off with a phalanx of police outside the Cabinet of Ministers building.

Some tussled with the officers, who were wearing gas masks, and tear gas was sprayed, but it was un-

masks who were blocking access to the building, and a flagpole was knocked down.

The police reacted with restraint and there were no immediate reports of arrests. Some demonstrators,

Tseholko, a television host and chief projects editor of Ukraine's Channel 5, who attended the demonstration wearing a blue and yellow ribbon. "And we don't know when is the time the top will pop off." □



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Venezuela's opposition stages nationwide protests

VIVIAN SEQUERA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Thousands of opponents of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro took to the streets on Saturday to express outrage over the country's deepening economic crisis, seeking to rebuild momentum sapped after a string of electoral defeats.

The nationwide day of protests was the first called by opposition leader Henrique Capriles since he lost by a thin margin to Maduro

in April's snap election following the death of Hugo Chavez and came just two weeks before key mayoral elections.

Reflecting a certain fatigue that besets both sides in this deeply polarized nation, only about 5,000 people gathered at Plaza Venezuela in Caracas to march with Capriles — a far cry from the masses that flooded Caracas's avenues during his final rally during the presidential campaign. Still, turnout was greater than recent government-organized acts. Government intimidation, internal power struggles and virtually no access to televised media have disheartened many in the opposition, leaving it in a weaker position to challenge Maduro even as the president's approval ratings have declined.

"A lot of people fought against a powerful and popular rival like Chavez," political analyst Edgar Gutierrez wrote in an email to the AP. But paradoxically, "against a weaker and much less popular adversary, there's a sense of hopelessness." As protesters were gath-

ering Saturday morning, Capriles said that a close aide was roughed up by military intelligence officers and hauled away from his hotel room overnight.

The whereabouts of Alejandro Silva, the coordinator of Capriles' busy schedule of rallies across the country in the run up to next month's vote, were unknown, the opposition leader said in messages posted on Twitter. The military intelligence agency refused to comment when contacted by the AP but Tourism Minister Andres Izarra said on Twitter that one of Capriles' "fascist henchmen" had been captured.

The opposition is trying to frame the Dec. 8 elections as a referendum on Maduro's rule, which has been marked by widespread shortages of basic goods like toilet paper and milk, and inflation that's now running at a two-decade high of 54 percent.

"If they win the 8th of December, all the chaos we're experiencing will worsen," Capriles told the crowd assembled in Caracas.

Among those in attendance was Mari Carmen

Calderon, who like many heads of households has watched as prices have risen in recent months even as salaries for the vast majority of Venezuelans remain unchanged.

"We women are here because we know what things cost," the 53 year-old special education teacher said. "We're the one ones suffering every day."

While it will be nearly impossible for the opposition to win the majority of Venezuela's 335 municipalities, many of them far-flung villages dependent on government patronage, it hopes to win the combined majority of votes nationwide with a strong showing in large metropolitan areas such as Caracas, where it currently holds just one of the five electoral districts.

Maduro, who celebrated his 51st birthday Friday night with a serenade by Mexican singer Juan Gabriel, has called on his supporters to ignore the protests and instead join officials in a weekend-long, nationwide audit of retailers to ensure they're complying with new rules capping prices and profits. □



Supporters of opposition leader Henrique Capriles greet him upon his arrival to lead a protest against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013. Thousands of Maduro opponents took to the streets on Saturday to express outrage over the country's deepening economic crisis, seeking to rebuild momentum sapped after a string of electoral defeats. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Guyana offers land to Trinidad farmers

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana says it's inviting people from Trinidad to create new farms, hoping the joint effort can help trim the Caribbean region's \$4 billion annual food import bill.

Guyana Agriculture Minister Leslie Ramsammy says the South American country plans to set aside 10,000 acres (4,000 hectares) for Trinidadian farmers to culti-

vate corn, soya beans and legumes. He says land will also be set aside for poultry and dairy farms.

Ramsammy says both governments will publish advisories in upcoming weeks to invite farmers and business owners to invest in the project.

He said Friday that officials will soon begin drafting agreements for land leases. □

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DR expels 244 Haitians after killings along border

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Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Dominican authorities expelled 244 Haitians after an elderly Dominican couple was slain in an apparent burglary near the border between the two countries and an angry mob retaliated by killing a Haitian man, a priest and migrant advocate said Sunday.

The Rev. Antoine Lissaint of Haiti's Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Organization told The Associated Press that a Dominican mob killed the man after people of Haitian descent were blamed for the fatal stabbing of the couple.

Dominican police issued a statement saying Jose Mendez Diaz and Luja Encarnacion Diaz, both 70, were killed during an apparent home burglary in which the alleged killers got away with two sacks of coffee. Detectives found a knife and stick at the scene.

A group of Haitians who have been living in the southwestern Dominican town of Neiba for the past several years sought refuge at a police station because they feared reprisal, Lissaint said. Police handed the group to Dominican soldiers who drove them to the border and expelled them back into Haiti on Saturday.

The Haiti government's National Office of Migration greeted the Haitians upon their return, giving



A Haitian man crosses into Haiti along the border with Jimani, Dominican Republic. In September, the Dominican Constitutional Court ruled that being born in the country does not automatically grant citizenship, including people born to non-legal residents going back to 1929.
(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

each the equivalent of \$22 to help them return to their former town, a lakeside community near the border called Thomazeau.

The Haitian government objected to the deportation on Sunday. Salim Succar, an adviser to Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, said in an email: "We have taken certain measures to welcome these people and disapprove of the way this repatriation was done."

Haiti and the Dominican Republic have a long history of acrimony as neighbors on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. But relations between the two have become increasingly strained since a Dominican court decision in September threatened to revoke citizenship for people of Haitian descent. Human rights advocates say the ruling could disenfranchise more than 200,000 people, stripping

them of the documents they need to work and attend school and denying them passports needed to travel overseas.

The Dominican government announced Friday it has developed a plan to resolve the legal status of people who could lose their citizenship because of the court ruling. Details will be released once a decree is signed and takes effect in the coming days. □

Brazil government gets \$9.14 billion in airport auction

SAO PAULO (AP) — The Brazilian government this weekend fetched \$9.14 billion in an auction for 51 percent stakes in the international airports of Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, cities that host next year's World Cup soccer games.

The Civil Aeronautics Agency said the Aeroportos do Futuro consortium formed by Brazilian construction company Odebrecht and the Changi Airport Group that operates the Singapore airport presented the

winning bid for Rio de Janeiro's Antonio Carlos Jobim Airport at \$8.3 billion. The minimum bid for the 25-year concession was \$2.12 billion. The Aerobrasil group formed by Brazilian construction company CCR and the operators of the Zurich and Munich airports paid \$840 million for Belo Horizonte's Confins airport. The minimum bid for the 30-year concession was \$481 million.

Together, the two airports account for 14 percent of Brazil's passenger traffic,

according to ANAC.

The auctions for both airports, held at the Sao Paulo Stock Exchange, are part of the government's efforts to improve the country's infrastructure ahead of the World Cup and the 2016 Olympic games to be held in Rio. Improving airports plagued with bottlenecks, long lines and poor infrastructure was a key promise the government made in its winning bid to host the World Cup, during which hundreds of thousands of fans are expected

to fly between the 12 cities where the matches will be held.

ANAC said the Aeroportos do Futuro consortium is expected to invest \$2.1 billion to improve and expand installations at Rio's international airport.

The Aerobrasil group is expected to invest \$1.54 billion in the construction of a new terminal and runway at Confins.

Last year, the government privatized three airports including the nation's busiest airport in Sao Paulo, along

with those in the capital Brasilia and in the city of Campinas in Sao Paulo state. Together, they respond for 30 percent of Brazil's passenger traffic.

In August of 2011, the government auctioned the rights to build and operate an airport in the nation's northeast near the city of Natal, which will host World Cup matches.

Infraero, the state-run agency that has long operated airports, retains a 49 percent stake in all the privatized airports. □



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voring dinner and enjoying the beautiful Aruba Sunset! Don't forget to make one hour in the day even happier at Bugaloe's daily Happy Hour from 5 till 6 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, just follow your hips to the music and the fun and smiles saluting you! ☐

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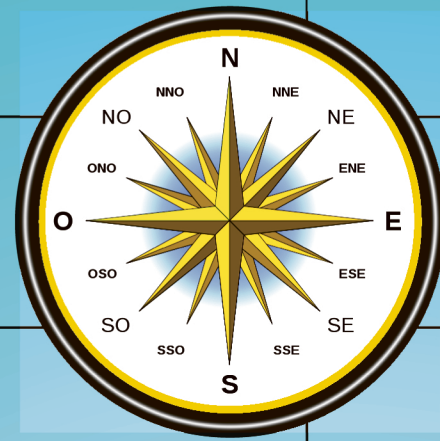
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NO FLY ZONE



Baltimore Ravens free safety Matt Elam, top, sacks New York Jets quarterback Geno Smith during the first half of an NFL football game in Baltimore, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Gail Burton)

Jets, Smith Crash Against Ravens

The Associated Press
RAVENS 19, JETS 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Joe Flacco threw a 66-yard touchdown pass to Jacoby

Jones, Justin Tucker kicked four field goals and the Ravens shut down the sputtering offense of the Jets. The defending Super Bowl

champion Ravens (5-6) had lost four of five before bouncing back to beat New York (5-6) and keep their playoff hopes alive.

Jones had four catches for 103 yards and returned five punts for 108 yards.

Continued on Page 22

OFF THE WALL

SCOTT CACCIOLA

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - New York Knicks coach Mike Woodson spoke with Carmelo Anthony for a few minutes after Friday's practice. There was no great significance to the meeting, according to Woodson, who always looks for opportunities to chat with his players.



Washington Wizards point guard John Wall passes the ball against the New York Knicks in Washington, on Saturday, November 23, 2013. The Wizards won 98-89.

(AP Photo/Nick Wass)

But with Anthony, who has endured more downs than ups this season, Woodson said he felt it was important "just to see where his head was."

One of the messages Woodson said he hoped to convey was that it was still early. This has become a mantra of sorts for the Knicks, this notion that they can erase their sluggish, injury-marred start with an unexpected surge.

And while Woodson clearly wanted to get things moving in the right direction Saturday night against the Washington Wizards, the Knicks have discovered that quiet conversations only do so much good. Quiet conversations cannot protect the rim.

Continued on Page 20

Feng shoots 66 and wins LPGA Titleholders Tour finale

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NAPLES, Florida (AP) — The only trouble Shanshan Feng faced Sunday was figuring out how to light the cannon that signaled the end

of the LPGA Tour season. She made the golf look easy at the LPGA Titleholders.

Two shots behind going into the final round, the 24-year-old from China ran

off four birdies in the opening six holes to seize control, and she closed with a 6-under 66 to win by one shot and claim the richest prize in women's golf.

It also was her second win

this year, which meant as much to her as the \$700,000 check.

"I had a goal to win two tournaments," she said. "I won in China. I didn't think I was going to achieve my goal, and I made it in my last tournament in Florida." Feng said her win last month in Beijing required a little luck — a shot that took a weird and wild bounce out of the rough, raced across the green and crashed into the flagstick to set up a tap-in eagle.

Sunday was sheer skill.

Feng was in such control of her game that she missed three birdie chances inside 6 feet in the middle of her round that kept the outcome in doubt until the end. Gerina Piller stayed within one shot of Feng, and she hit a 7-iron into 10 feet for a chance at birdie to force a playoff. The putt narrowly missed, and Piller had to settle for a 69 and her best finish on the LPGA

Tour.

Pornanong Phatlum of Thailand had a 70 and finished alone in third.

Feng finished at 15-under 273, the number she had in mind at the start of the day — even if it didn't result in a win.

"Before I started, I never thought I was going to win," Feng said.

"I knew I was only two behind. But I thought all the people in the last group were really strong competitors."

No one was stronger than Feng, who played the final 31 holes without a bogey.

Natalie Gulbis, tied for the 54-hole lead with Pornanong and Piller, wasn't up to the task. Going for her first win in six years, Gulbis didn't make a birdie until the 14th hole, and by then she couldn't stop a spectacular slide. Gulbis closed with an 82.

Stacy Lewis had to settle for only one prize. □



Michelle Wie tees off on the eighth hole during the third round of the the CME Group Titleholders golf tournament Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013 at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Fla.

(AP Photo/Corey Perrine)



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Wall has skills, and the Knicks have problems

Continued from front

They cannot knock down 3-pointers. And they cannot defend John Wall, a point guard who was at his high-octane best as the Wizards dealt the Knicks a 98-89 loss at the Verizon Center.

"We can't keep losing these games," Amar'e Stoudemire said.

The Knicks (3-9) are in a tailspin, having lost five straight, and their upcoming schedule is not forgiving. Saturday's game was the start of a four-game

trip, which will continue Monday when they head west to face the Portland Trail Blazers and their own fleet-footed point guard, Damian Lillard.

"Flat," Woodson said, offering a one-word synopsis. "We've got to get back to the basics and try to figure out how to put four quarters together."

The Knicks struggled to contain Wall, who collected 31 points and seven assists. He showcased his considerable skills as the Wizards (5-8) asserted themselves early in the second half. Af-

ter Anthony missed a jump shot, Wall took the ball and rocketed up the court, flying past his teammates and any potential defenders. The Knicks' J.R. Smith was left to grab Wall by the arm and essentially tackle him. Wall made both free throws.

The Knicks, meantime, became stagnant on offense after a solid first half. Their ball movement slowed. Their spacing collapsed. The Wizards capitalized on every miscue, outscoring them by 27-17 in the third quarter.



New York Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire goes to the basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, in Washington. The Wizards won 98-89.

(AP Photo/Nick Wass)

When the Knicks inexplicably triple-teamed Bradley Beal on a fast break, Jan Vesely leaked away for an open layup. And when Smith misfired on a pair of free throws, everyone in attendance received a coupon for a free chicken sandwich as part of a fan promotion. It was that kind of night for the Knicks.

"I'm just trying to stay positive throughout this very tough time right now," said Anthony, who finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds despite being double-teamed whenever he touched the ball. "The game plan was just to get the ball out of my hands and make someone else do it. And they were successful."

The Wizards were looking to recover from a loss Friday night to the Toronto Rap-

tors, during which Wall had done everything he could to keep his team involved, scoring a season-high 37 points. Against the Knicks, he faced a smorgasbord of defenders. Beno Udrih, coming off his finest effort of the season in Wednesday's hard-fought loss to the Indiana Pacers, started on him. Smith and Iman Shumpert also took turns. For all three, it was a thankless task.

"I like everything about him," Woodson said of Wall.

Midway through the first quarter, after Andrea Bargnani missed inside, Wall corralled the rebound and pushed the ball up the floor, twisting his way through traffic and all the way to the rim for a layup. The entire sequence took five seconds. □

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Pacquiao batters Rios through 12 brutal rounds

GREG BISHOP

© 2013 New York Times

MACAU - Say this for Brandon Rios: he hardly ever backed away.

Manny Pacquiao kept coming at him. He kept striking Rios with left hands to the chin, the nose, the right and left side of his body and both eyes. By the later rounds, Rios' face was swollen, bruised and bloodied, and Pacquiao, as the sport of boxing knew him before his knockout loss last December, had returned to devastating form.

Plenty will be said as to how Pacquiao's chosen opposition figured into this resurgence. But those who, like Rios, insisted this bout would be defined by calls for Pacquiao's retirement, were sorely mistaken - Rios most sorely of all.

To say Pacquiao (55-5-2) won by unanimous decision is to undersell just how one-sided the contest was. He seemed to win every round, and if those rounds were split in half, or into quarters, it still could have been a shutout.

The three judges gifted Rios (31-2-1) three rounds total on their cards. Pacquiao's entourage lifted him off his feet in the center of the ring. Someone draped a championship belt over his shoulder and he threw both arms skyward. It felt like 2009 or 2010.

"I just got beat by one of the best fighters in the world," Rios said.

He then added, with more than a dash of understatement: "He's very fast. He has a lot of different angles. He's difficult to box against."

The bout had seemed like a line of demarcation for Pacquiao. Either he would overwhelm a slower Rios



Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, right, lands a right to Brandon Rios of the United States during their WBO international welterweight title fight Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Macau. Pacquiao defeated Rios by unanimous decision on Sunday to take the title and return to his accustomed winning ways after successive defeats.

(AP Photo/ Vincent Yu)

with the speed that marked his career ascension, or he would look like a boxer impacted by his last fight, a knockout at the right hand of Juan Manuel Marquez. The crowd booed Rios as he entered, and it remained behind Pacquiao throughout.

If there was any question as to how he would respond, Pacquiao answered the doubts early - with a flurry of exchanges. He came out aggressive, and he landed left hands to the stomach and the face.

Rios did most of his early work in close. He tried to turn the bout into a brawl. He wrapped Pacquiao and punched at both sides of his body.

In the fourth round, Pacquiao looked like 2009 Pacquiao: vintage, relentless, strong. He slung left hands and slipped away from

Rios, landed and dipped away. It seemed at once savage and balletic. In the fifth, one straight left landed square on Rios' chin. It appeared to wobble him, but again he shook his head.

"I was winning the whole fight," Pacquiao said. "That's what mattered." He added: "This is still my time."

Pacquiao strolled into his dressing room shortly after 10 a.m. His pre-fight meal had consisted of chicken, fish, soup and white rice - breakfast, as it were. The time change for his preparations did not seem to bother him, although he definitely seemed aware of it. He asked for the time maybe a dozen times over the next 90 minutes. He wanted the clock on the wall turned on.

His mother, Dionisia, found

Pacquiao in a corner of the room. He took her right hand and held it tenderly to his forehead and they prayed for maybe 30 seconds.

His trainer, Freddie Roach, approached soon after, practically swimming through the crowd that surrounded Pacquiao as he wrapped his most prized possessions. Pacquiao twisted tape around his left hand, starting with the fingers, moving down toward the wrist.

"You all right?" Roach asked him, and Pacquiao nodded.

He said nothing. He did not lift his head toward Roach. "You good?" Roach asked. Pacquiao nodded once again.

He hosted a steady stream of visitors, among them the boxers Miguel Cotto and Ruslan Provodnikov

and the soccer star David Beckham. Provodnikov, through an interpreter, told Pacquiao that he wanted him to take it easy on Rios, so that he could fight Rios next.

Pacquiao's wife, Jinkee, stopped her husband near the door. She hugged him. "Ladies and gentlemen, from..." he said, trailing off, as he bounced on his toes. "Let's get ready to rumble!" she said.

It was a strange week, atypical even by boxing's standards. Pacquiao pledged his support to those in his native Philippines devastated by a typhoon. Roach, scuffled with Rios's camp over a gym conflict and took a kick to the chest from Alex Ariza, the trainer Roach previously employed. Pacquiao's adviser, Michael Koncz, spent part of the week in the hospital for high blood pressure and what was said to be a mild heart attack.

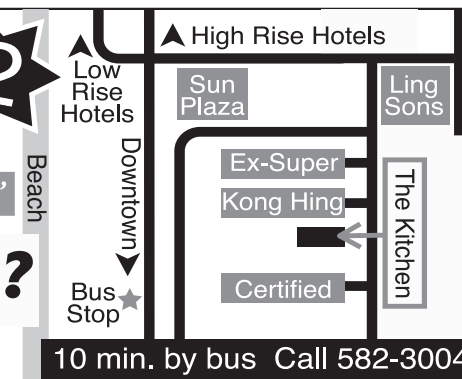
All that tumult only added to the stakes. Pacquiao, once the fighter of the decade, went 0-2 in 2012. Marquez knocked him unconscious. His wife asked him to retire. Roach termed this bout both "a must-win" and a "pivotal point in our career." That the event took place in Macau added a layer of complex logistics. The boxers did their news conference at night, their weigh-in in the morning and squared off late Saturday in the United States but early Sunday afternoon here. All week, the promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank Boxing pointed to similar fights in international locations, many of which ended in knockouts and upsets, like when Buster Douglas toppled Mike Tyson in Tokyo in 1990. □

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Spanish Roundup: Villarreal wins 3-0 at 10-man Levante

JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press
BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Striker Ikechukwu Uche scored two goals and earned a penalty in Villarreal's 3-0 win against 10-man Levante on Sunday, keeping the promoted side near the top of the Spanish

said. "We are going to try to win all we can and then we'll see." Uche broke free in the area in the 10th minute and was brought down by goalkeeper Keylor Navas, who was shown a direct red card. Villarreal team captain

some hope with a headed goal in the 81st. But Garcia managed to toe the ball home while falling backwards to seal the win two minutes later. Substitute Christian Stuani hit on the break in the 85th to cap Espanyol's much-needed victory.



FC Barcelona's Alexis Sanchez, second right, duels for the ball against Granada's Yacine Brahimi, below, during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013.

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

league. Sergio Garcia did one better for Espanyol in its 4-1 victory at 10-man Rayo Vallecano, earning the dismissal of the opposition goalkeeper before scoring a hat trick to break a four-game winless streak for the Catalan club. Sevilla rolled over 10-man Betis 4-0 in the always heated Seville derby, while Elche edged Valencia 2-1 at home thanks to substitute Cristian Herrera's late winner. Villarreal's victory kept it in fourth place and in control of Spain's last Champions League spot. "We are just going ahead game by game," Uche

and midfielder Bruno Soriano stroked in the penalty kick after Javi Jimenez replaced Navas. Jimenez kept Levante in the match until Soriano delivered a through ball for Uche to score in the 74th. The Nigeria international scored again with a bicycle kick in the 89th. Garcia drew a foul from Rayo goalkeeper Ruben Martinez who was sent off with a red card in the 25th. Garcia converted the penalty kick and then added a second goal for Espanyol from the spot in the 51st when striker Jonathan Cordoba was fouled by Anaitz Arbilla. Saul Niguez gave Rayo

"It's impossible to take the ball from Rayo," said Espanyol coach Javier Aguirre. "It always has more possession than its rivals, even Barcelona and Real Madrid. We tried to maintain our composure and take advantage of the chances their errors provided us, and early on that's what we got with Sergio Garcia and Cordoba. If we had pressed Rayo early they would have run over us." Sevilla forward Carlos Bacca scored one goal and set up another at Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium to keep Betis winless on the road this season and stuck in last place. □

NFL SUNDAY

Continued from front

Baltimore won on the strength of its defense, however, as the Jets committed three turnovers and went 1 for 12 on third-down conversions. Rookie Geno Smith completed nine of 22 passes for 127 yards and two interceptions, both by Corey Graham.

New York had alternated wins and losses in its first 10 games, but the pattern ended here with its second straight defeat. Jets coach Rex Ryan, who helped run Baltimore's defense from 1999-2008, fell to 0-3 against his former team.

CHARGERS 41, CHIEFS 38

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Philip Rivers came through when the San Diego Chargers needed him most. Rivers threw for 392 yards and three touchdowns, the final one a 26-yarder to Seyi Ajirotutu with 24 seconds remaining to give the Chargers a 41-38 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday and end a three-game losing streak.

The Chiefs had taken the lead when Alex Smith hit Dwayne Bowe for a go-ahead score with 1:22 left. But the Chargers (5-6) still had two timeouts, and they used both as they quickly move downfield. Ajirotutu's TD in tight coverage was just his third catch of the season. It also represented the eighth and final lead change in the game.

Smith threw for 292 yards and three touchdowns for the Chiefs, who dropped their second straight after a 9-0 start. They also lost top pass rushers Tamba Hali and Justin Houston to injuries and now have to turn their attention to the Denver Broncos next week.

PACKERS 26, VIKINGS 26

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin (AP) — Backup quarterback Matt Flynn threw for 218 yards to help the Packers storm back from a 16-point deficit, but Minnesota and Green Bay could only muster field goals in overtime.

Mason Crosby hit from 20 yards at 10:28 of the extra period and Blair Walsh connected from 35 with 3:54 left. Greg Jennings, playing his first game at Lambeau Field as a member of the Vikings (3-8-1), dropped a third-down pass with 2:11 left. The Packers (5-5-1) also stumbled on their next possession.

One last chance for the Vikings went nowhere with 1 second left, and the teams walked off with the first tie in the NFL since the Rams and 49ers ended 24-24 on Nov. 11, 2012. It was the first game under the tiebreaking rules instituted in 2012 that ended in a tie after both teams kicked field goals to begin the extra period. It was the second time a game had each team make field goals to open overtime; Houston won the other last November over Jacksonville.

BUCCANEERS 24, LIONS 21

DETROIT (AP) — Matthew Stafford's fourth interception went in and out of Calvin Johnson's hands to rookie Johnthan Banks inside the Tampa Bay 5 in the final minute, allowing the Buccaneers to hold on. Tampa Bay (3-8) has won three straight after losing its first eight, joining the 1978 St. Louis Cardinals as the only team to do that. □

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Rays, Molina a comfortable fit all around

MARC TOPKIN,
© 2012 Tampa Bay Times

Jose Molina certainly was not the best catcher on the market this winter, not even necessarily among the second-tier candidates.

Not with his advancing age (39 in June), limited offensive contributions (.594 on-base plus slugging percentage) and lack of mobility behind the plate (eight passed balls, 33 wild pitches).

But in deciding to bring him back, with a two-year deal expected to be finished this week, the Rays obviously considered Molina the best choice for them. Familiarity obviously has its benefits. The Rays felt he was better defensively than any of the other affordable free agent options, must not have thought a trade for Ryan Hanigan or anyone else would work, and decided they had better move now — relatively early for them on free agents — before missing out.

Molina's game-calling and pitch-framing are definite benefits, and even with a dropoff to 23.3 percent, he was above average in throwing out runners. Based on Defensive WAR (wins above replacement), Molina's .5 rating was sixth best among American League catchers with 90 or more games. (Jose Lobaton was .3. Interestingly, pitchers had basically the same ERA with either — 3.73 for Molina, 3.74 for Lobaton).

There's a financial element, too, and though final terms aren't set, it seems unlikely Molina would get much more than the \$3.3 million he made total the past two seasons. □

Yankees said near \$85m deal for Braves' catcher

DAVID WALDSTEIN
© 2013 New York Times

With uncertainty about all their infielders, the New York Yankees acted Saturday to solidify their catching position, agreeing in principle with Brian McCann on a five-year deal worth more than \$82.5 million. As of Saturday afternoon the Yankees and McCann were at that dollar figure, but the Yankees were expected to increase their offer to \$85 million to seal the deal, which will not be finalized until McCann passes a physical. The deal also includes an option for a sixth year that could bring it to \$100 million, according to a person involved in the negotiations. The Atlanta Braves had made a \$14.1 million qualifying offer to McCann, and by signing him the Yankees will have to surrender a compensatory pick in next year's draft to Atlanta.

A left-handed hitter with pull power, McCann should be a perfect fit for Yankee Stadium with its short right-field fence. He is also considered a team leader with excellent credentials for handling and sticking up for his pitchers. McCann becomes the only certainty for the Yankees on the diamond, which in-

cludes Alex Rodriguez appealing a 211-game suspension; the 39-year-old Derek Jeter (ankle) and Mark Teixeira (wrist) coming off serious injuries that cut short their seasons; and

ing last season when he missed the first month after offseason shoulder surgery. He has caught 8,820 1/3 innings over 1,046 games. After the Yankees let Russell Martin go in free agen-

take over, at which point McCann could become a designated hitter. The Yankees also plan to meet with Cano and his representatives in the coming week to discuss a new contract. But



Atlanta Braves catcher Brian McCann points from the dugout in Atlanta. With uncertainty about all their infielders, the New York Yankees acted Saturday to solidify their catching position, agreeing in principle with McCann on a five-year deal worth more than \$82.5 million.

(AP Photo/Curtis Compton)

Robinson Cano testing the free-agent market.

McCann, who turns 30 in February, has played his entire career with the Atlanta Braves and compiled a .277 batting average with a .350 on-base percentage. In nine seasons he has hit at least 20 home runs seven times, includ-

cy before last season they saw a significant drop in production at catcher, with Chris Stewart, Austin Romine, Francisco Cervelli and J.R. Murphy all seeing time there.

The Yankees could now trade Romine, and let McCann catch until prospect Gary Sanchez is ready to

as with McCann, the Yankees are also pursuing other free agents, including Carlos Beltran, Jhonny Peralta, Stephen Drew, Omar Infante and Kelly Johnson. They are also engaged in talks with Jacoby Ellsbury and Shin-Soo Choo, but are not expecting either to sign until after Christmas. □

Vettel wins season-ending Brazilian GP

TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — Sebastian Vettel won Formula One's season-ending Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday, matching Michael Schumacher's record of 13 victories in a year and equaling the nine consecutive wins of Alberto Ascari. Vettel's Red Bull teammate Mark Webber was second

in his final F1 race and Fernando Alonso of Ferrari was third.

The win capped an impressive year by Vettel, who had already broken Schumacher's 2004 mark of seven straight wins in a year at the United States GP last week. Schumacher's 13 wins also came in 2004. Ascari's mark of nine straight victories was achieved in

the 1952 and '53 seasons. "I think it is very difficult for me to realize, probably now and in the next couple of weeks, what we have achieved again, and in particular this year at the end of the season," Vettel said. "At the end of the day, as I see it now, it's just a number. But hopefully one day, when I've got less hair and (I'm) chubby, then

it's probably something nice to look back."

The 26-year-old Vettel clinched the title at the Indian GP, becoming the youngest driver to win four world championships.

"I'm actually quite sad that this season comes to an end," Vettel said. "The car has been phenomenal. It just kept getting better. I'm extremely proud." □

Bubblewatch:

A Record Market Is Not Always All That It Seems

FLOYD NORRIS

© 2013 New York Times

The stock market flirted with historical highs all week last week, with the Dow Jones industrial average trading and even closing higher than 16,000 and the Standard & Poor's 500 exceeding 1,800 for a time.

But are stock prices really at record levels? Adjusted for inflation, the answer would seem to be that they are not.

On Monday, the first day the S&P 500-stock index traded above 1,800, it closed at 1,791.53. That was 17 percent higher than the peak reached in the spring of 2000, when the country was in the midst of a love affair with technology stocks. Adjusted for inflation, however, it is 14 percent lower than the 2000 close.

But that may be misleading, both because of the way the S&P 500 is calculated and the nature of the bull market that ended in 2000. The S&P, like most indexes but not like the Dow Jones industrial average, is capitalization-weighted, meaning that the companies whose stocks are worth the most have the largest impact on the movement of the index. In 2000, two market trends combined to inflate the prices of the biggest stocks.

The first was the belief that technology compa-

nies could only continue to grow and prosper. That drove up some small-company stocks, but it also did wonders for some big ones. The second was the

that anyone who bought five of them that day, the day the market peaked, would have lost more than 90 percent of the investment had that person held

way, accounted for 45 percent of the value of all 500 stocks in the index. So anyone who bought an index fund put nearly half of the investment into those

which they got when that company bought AT&T's cable operations.

The top in March 2000 was an artificial one in some ways. By the end of the year, the S&P 500 was down 14 percent from the peak, but six of the 10 industry sectors had risen during the period. Their gains, however, were completely overshadowed by the information technology sector, which had lost half its value, and the telecommunications sector, which had lost 38 percent. Then, in 2001, the recession damaged most stocks.

Adjusted for inflation, six of the sectors are higher now than they were in 2000, while one, utilities, is about where it was then. But information technology and telecommunications have never fully recovered, and the financial sector is also lower because of the financial crisis that came eight years later.

Still, even with all those caveats, the S&P 500 does represent the results for many investors in the past 13 years. That poor performance helped cause pension funds to become underfunded and forced some people to delay retirement. The Internet bubble had aftereffects that hurt many people who had avoided the dot-com stocks that were briefly deemed so valuable. □



A screen at a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average, Friday, Nov. 22, 2013. The DJIA climbed 55 points, or 0.3 percent, to 16,064.77. The stock market is on track for a 27 percent gain this year.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

general belief that - for the long term at least - the stock market would always be a good investment. The seemingly conservative way to invest in stocks was to buy index funds - and that meant that most of the money went into the biggest stocks, driving their prices still higher.

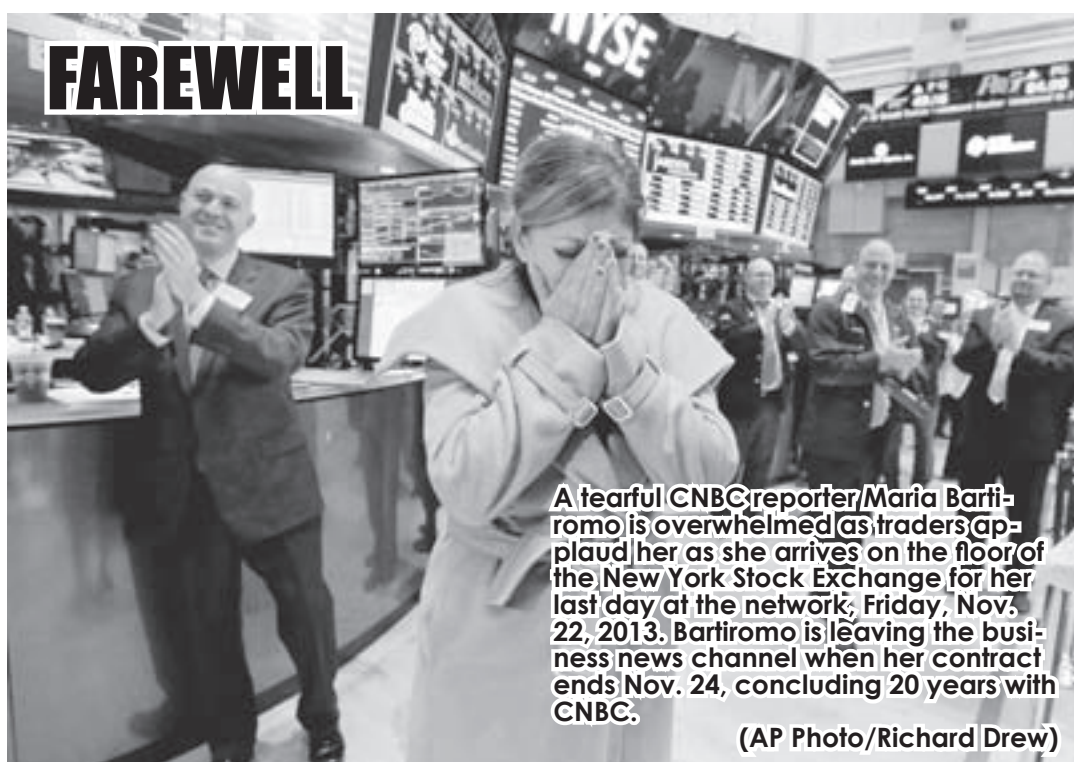
For the 25 companies in the S&P that were worth the most money on March 24, 2000, it is remarkable

on for the next 13 years. Those companies are Lucent Technologies, Nortel Networks, MCI WorldCom, Sun Microsystems and the American International Group. Cisco, then the second most valuable company in the index, has survived and done well, but its stock is off by more than two-thirds. So was Dell before it recently went private.

Those 25 stocks, by the

companies.

Calculating how stocks did is sometimes difficult. AT&T Corp., which was then the 12th-most-valuable company, is not the same company as the current AT&T Inc., which is descended from SBC Communications, then No. 18. The old AT&T shareholders have a small stake in the new AT&T, but most of the value the old shareholders would have now is in stock in Comcast,



A tearful CNBC reporter, Maria Bartiromo, is overwhelmed as traders applaud her as she arrives on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange for her last day at the network, Friday, Nov. 22, 2013. Bartiromo is leaving the business news channel when her contract ends Nov. 24, concluding 20 years with CNBC.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Ackman says he will never drop bet against Herbalife

ALEXANDRA STEVENSON

© 2013 New York Times

The activist investor William A. Ackman said over the wee that he intended to take his high-stakes bet against Herbalife, the nutritional supplements company, "to the end of the earth." In an interview with Bloomberg Television, Ackman also said that his hedge fund, Pershing Square Capital Management, worth \$11 billion, had lost \$400 million to \$500 million on his bet. He contends that Herbalife is a pyramid scheme and that its shares are worthless, a

claim Herbalife denies.

As Ackman spoke Friday morning, shares in Herbalife rose by about 5 percent. They closed 4.7 percent higher, at \$71.65. Since Ackman first announced he had an "enormous" short position in Herbalife last year, the shares have risen more than 100 percent.

Ackman began shorting the company late last year, eventually borrowing \$1 billion of Herbalife shares to sell, making a bet that he would be able to buy Herbalife shares back later at a cheaper price. □

Boeing solicits bids for site to produce 777X

MIKE BAKER

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Boeing Co. is soliciting bids from more than a dozen locations that want to build the new 777X airplane and secure thousands of jobs along with it, a company official said Saturday.

Spokesman Doug Alder said requests for proposals began going out Friday. Boeing wants the proposals returned in a few weeks, and the company hopes to make a final decision early next year.

Alder declined to specify the locations of interest but said each had asked for the chance to compete for the 777X work and met the company's qualifications. He also declined to discuss the criteria the company will use to assess bids.

"We'll look at what might best fit our needs," Alder said.

Officials in Alabama, California, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas and Utah are among those who have talked about trying to lure Boeing.

Production of the plane will likely mean thousands of long-term jobs for whichever location Boeing selects. Boeing had initially offered to build the 777X in Washington state but had sought concessions from union machinists in exchange for the guarantee. The union rejected a proposed contract, leading Boeing to immediately begin talks with other locations.

Alder said the company had no plans to re-engage in talks with the machinists. Washington state officials still plan to compete for the work. The state recently approved tax breaks valued at \$9 billion over the coming years and legislation to improve aerospace training programs and the permit issuing process.

"That's going to be stressed strongly in whatever we do going forward," said David Postman, a spokesman for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee. □

WORKSTATION:

Invasion Of The Annual Employee Reviews

PHYLLIS KORKKI

© 2013 New York Times

In a previous job, I had to prepare and deliver them, and I remember giving a review to one of our star performers. It was a glowing review, but I felt obligated to find some area that he could work on, having been told that an all-positive review was pointless and that there was always room for improvement. I saw him bristle as I mentioned his flaw, and I wondered if that one criticism overshadowed all

"Scaling Up Excellence."

Some companies have given up annual evaluations altogether. At Adobe, "we abolished our annual performance review in favor of lighter-weight check-in conversations that center on ongoing feedback," Donna Morris, senior vice president in human resources for the company, wrote in a blog post last summer. "We don't have labels, a formal tool or prescriptive time of year it all has to happen - we just ask people to have conversa-

performers were rewarded, the middle 70 percent were coached on ways to improve, and the bottom 10 percent were shown the door.

Advocates of forced ranking say it's a concrete way for managers to identify top performers and to explain the steps that middling ones must take to rise to the highest tier. They also say it can be an effective way to force managers to take the painful step of dismissing a subpar worker.

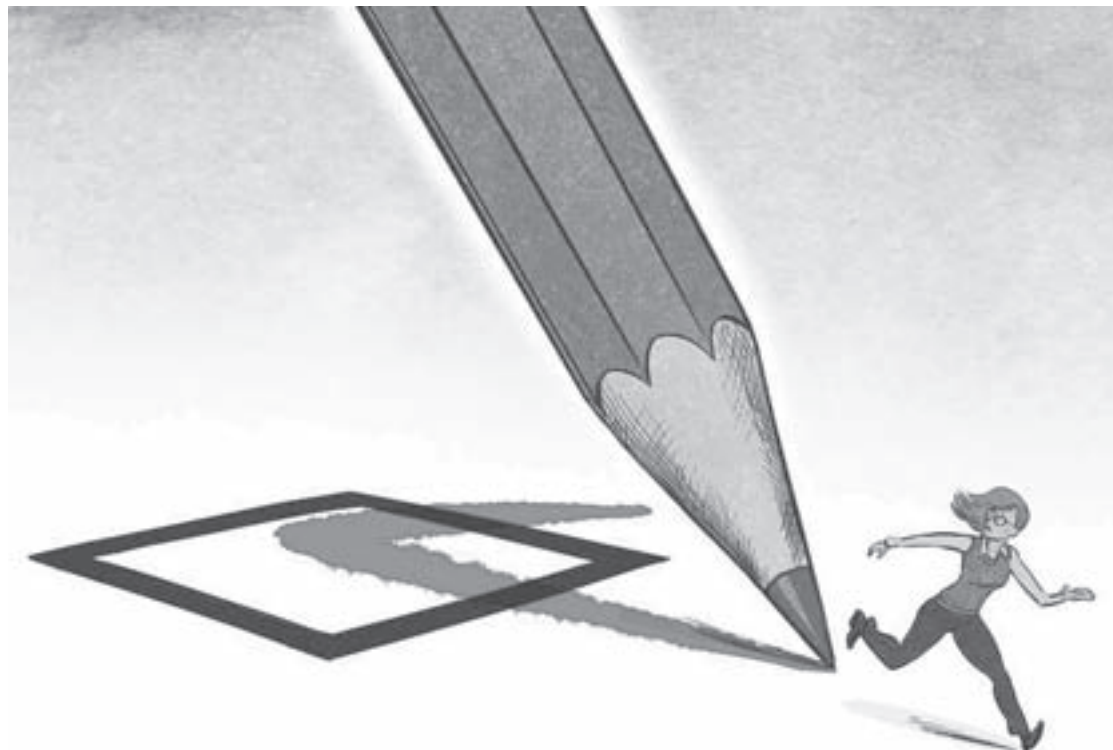
A problem with forced

great individual work but also contribute to the performance of the entire organization, he said. Otherwise, an "internal dysfunctional competition" can result, with cooperation coming to a halt and employees potentially sabotaging one another to stay high in the rankings.

Microsoft recently ended a forced-ranking approach; employees had complained for years that it discouraged teamwork, according to reports.

Grading employees on a curve is a way to force managers to differentiate among employees, but it can also create angst, said Jon Picoult, founder of Watermark Consulting, a management consulting firm in Simsbury, Conn. Rankings can work if they are flexible - for example, if they don't mandate that a fixed percentage of employees be dismissed, Picoult said. But if they are poorly administered, he said, they can damage morale. At the same time, "an egalitarian approach to ratings and rewards is just as poisonous," he added. "Few things are as demotivating to a workforce as seeing poor performance tolerated and exceptional performance ignored."

Yahoo began a new approach to employee evaluation last year, and has been tweaking it. But contrary to recent reports, it is not a forced ranking, said Sarah Meron, a company spokeswoman. Rather, she said in an email, "Our system lets employees understand how they are performing relative to expectations (exceeding, achieving or missing), and there are no hard and fast rules" around categorizing them. Sutton is wary of rankings and yearly evaluations in general. Many organizations, he said, would be better off if they provided continuous feedback, with formal evaluations coming into play mainly if a worker is being eyed for promotion or has shown substandard performance. □



Some companies are turning to more rigid evaluations of their employees, though others are shunning formal reviews entirely.

(Koren Shadmi/The New York Times)

the praise.

Then there are the underperformers. Managers are told that nothing in a performance review should be a surprise, and yet it's understandable that they would delay bringing up unpleasant issues with an employee. So problems may well fester until they explode in an annual review.

For many workers, the annual performance evaluation is "this weird form you fill out every year that has nothing to do with everyday life," said Robert Sutton, a professor and organizational psychologist at Stanford and co-author of the forthcoming book

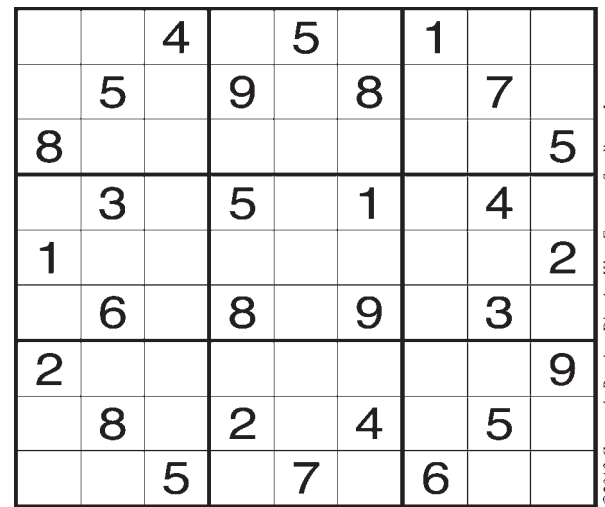
tions."

But many businesses feel that they must use formal reviews and rankings to create an objective measurement of performance and goals, so that managers can reward and promote good employees, and give poorly performing ones a chance to improve (while creating a paper trail in case they must be dismissed).

Some companies go so far as to rate employees on a bell curve, a process known as forced or stack ranking. Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric, advocated a system in which the 20 percent of employees deemed top

rankings is that a company is assuming, in effect, that a certain percentage of its parts is defective, Sutton said. Suppose a manager works wonders and everyone in the department improves. Under forced rankings, he or she might still have to let some workers go, and that doesn't make sense, he said. On the other end of the bell curve, only a specific number of employees, say 20 percent, may be singled out for the highest raises and bonuses. But "why can't more than 20 percent of the people in a group be great?" he asked. With forced rankings, high ratings should go to people who not only do

Conceptis Sudoku



11/12

Yesterday's puzzle answer	2	7	4	8	5	6	9	1	3
	5	8	3	2	1	9	6	7	4
	6	1	9	3	7	4	8	5	2
	1	9	6	7	4	5	2	3	8
	7	4	2	9	3	8	5	6	1
	3	5	8	1	6	2	7	4	9
	4	2	7	5	9	1	3	8	6
	8	3	1	6	2	7	4	9	5
9	6	5	4	8	3	1	2	7	

Blondie



Panel 1: A character named Attila, with a large nose and a wide-brimmed hat, is speaking to Garfield. Attila's speech bubble says: "ATTILA, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAD COSMETIC SURGERY TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK LIKE GARFIELD. YOU ARE A COMPLETE IDIOT." Garfield is lying down, looking grumpy, with a name tag that says "ATTILA".

Panel 2: Attila is now standing and holding a large, round object. His speech bubble says: "WE JUST PICKED UP 2000 MORE PAPERS." Garfield is still lying down, looking grumpy, with a name tag that says "ATTILA".

Panel 3: Attila is now crying, with a single tear visible. Garfield is still lying down, looking grumpy, with a name tag that says "ATTILA".

Small text at the bottom of the first panel: "© 1996 by Paws, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc." Small text at the bottom of the third panel: "11/12" and "Mike Peters".

BABIES CHANGE SO FAST.

ONE DAY THEY'RE THROWING FOOD AT YOU.

WHOOSH!

...AND THE NEXT DAY THEY'RE GETTING REAL DISTANCE.

GOOD ARM, SWEET-HEART.

Bill Manly & Scott

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WORKING ON YOUR ENGLISH ESSAY, JEREMY?

YUP. I'M ON THE FINAL DRAFT.

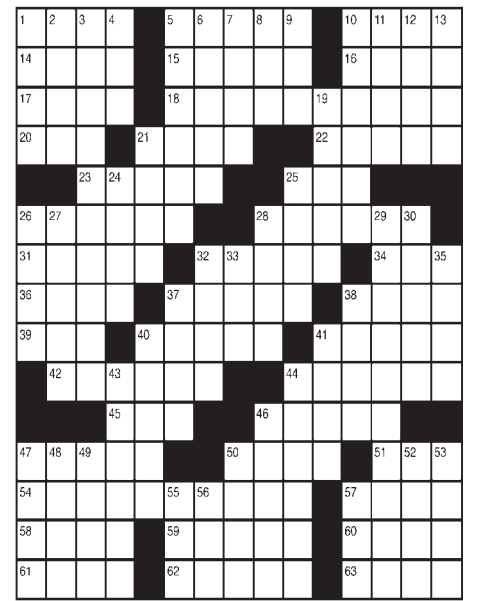
OH, GOOD!

...UNLESS IT'S ALSO THE FIRST DRAFT.

PERFECTION IS THE ENEMY OF THE DONE, MOM.

SCOTT ADAMS

1 Gather a
harvest
5 Puts on guard
10 ___ dunk; sure
thing
14 Wheel rod
15 Assumed name
16 Fish used in a
casserole
17 5,280 feet
18 Classic doll
20 Sault __, Marie
21 Auction offers
22 Make laugh
23 Like roasted
marshmallows
25 Inventor __
Whitney
26 Tastiness
28 Sparking
31 External
32 Too loose, as
pants
34 And not
36 Actor Ken __
37 Desert refuges
38 Pet Teasdale
39 Singing couple
40 Juvenile
delinquents
41 Back tooth
42 "You __, you
lose"
44 Mutilate
45 Winnie the
Pooh's little pal
46 Spree
47 Purple shade
50 Male children
51 Jacuzzi
54 Mathematics
57 Competed
58 Misplace
59 Get up
60 ___ tea; cold
drink
61 Crawling bugs
62 Challenged
63 Deadly snakes



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/12/13

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11/12/13

41 "A ___ home is his castle"	49 Shopper's slip of paper
43 Gives a speech	50 Mix in a bowl
44 Chopped finely	52 Chick's noise
46 Idaho's capital	53 Tallies up
47 In ___ land; not facing reality	55 Furious
48 Press, as clothes	56 Historical age
	57 By way of

Trigaux Column:

Low tide exposed JPMorgan Chase's stumbles

ROBERT TRIGAUX

© The New York Times 2013

On Wall Street, it's said a rising tide hides many stumbles. When the economy tanks, the water recedes, and shabby bank practices are revealed for all to see. Case in point: JPMorgan Chase, a colossus of a bank with a hard-to-grasp \$2.4 trillion in assets. But this bank has played fast and loose for too long. As the largest U.S. banking company, its recent track record is disturbing and warrants scrutiny for several reasons. First: A record settlement for the history books. The U.S. Justice Department this past week reached a \$13 billion agreement with JPMorgan Chase over its peddling toxic mortgages, calling it "the largest settlement with a single entity in American history." A \$13 billion penalty sounds huge, but is it to a multitrillion-dollar bank? Last year, the bank earned more than \$21 billion. And some of that \$13 billion can be deducted by the bank on its taxes. Second: An admission of wrongdoing. Such accountability is missing in most federal crackdowns. This time the bank acknowledged in writing that it made "serious misrepresentations" to the public about numerous deals involving the sale of securities backed by flimsy home loans. Yet JPMorgan Chase separately insists it "has not admitted to any violations of the law."

Third: Criminal charges are still possible. The Justice settlement does not absolve JPMorgan Chase or its employees from facing any possible criminal charges.

Fourth: Some shareholders are getting well acquaint-

ed with Tampa. Saddled with controversy over a major trading loss, the bank chose in both 2012 and 2013 to hold its annual shareholders meetings behind high security at its suburban Tampa campus. Those meetings still drew some protesters, but in fewer numbers. And bank chief executive officer Jamie Dimon endured far less financial media scrutiny than he would have suffered had he stood in front of shareholders back at the bank's headquarters in New York.

Fifth: The bank's influence rises anew in Florida. With more than 20,000 employees in this state alone and with former Florida Sen. Mel Martinez as its state chairman, JPMorgan Chase continues to pour millions into the Sunshine State in a building binge of new branches.

The upshot? JPMorgan Chase allowed a series of financial and ethical blunders to sully its reputation. It still needs an overhaul. The latest scandal stems from allegations that amid the housing bubble, the institution packaged and marketed securities knowingly created out of shoddy mortgages. Many of those risky loans were inherited by the bank when it bought the failing institutions Bear Stearns and Washington Mutual. Large numbers of those securities later failed, fueling the 2008 financial crisis.

"Without a doubt, the conduct uncovered in this investigation helped sow the seeds of the mortgage meltdown," U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement.

Let's look closer at how the bank internally handed those mortgages. (Looking

at the guts of Wall Street deals is like examining how laws are made. You need a strong stomach.)

According to the federal settlement, JPMorgan Chase between 2005 and 2008 packaged residential mortgages on homes across the country and assured investors the loans were based on solid underwriting standards. Back then the bank went further, hiring an outside firm to examine the loans before they were packaged into securities. When that firm identified loan problems, the bank at times ignored the warnings. The settlement notes that between 2006 and 2007, 27 percent of more than 23,000 mortgages did not meet underwriting standards.

Yet JPMorgan Chase chose to accept many of those loans or upgraded their ratings to include

them in their sale of mortgage-backed securities.

Think of the "rising tide" reference at the start of this column. It can be tough to recall the heady economic times before the past punishing recession. But clearly there was a culture at many financial institutions, big and small, that the ever-soaring value of U.S. housing encouraged sloppy or devious loan underwriting.

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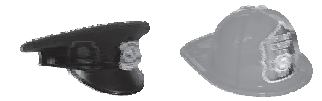
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COMET CRAZE:

Will icy comet survive close encounter with sun?

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — For months, all eyes in the sky have pointed at the comet that's zooming toward a blisteringly close encounter with the sun.

The moment of truth comes Thursday.

The sun-grazing Comet ISON, now thought to be less than a mile (1.6 kilometers) wide, will either fry and shatter, victim of the sun's incredible power, or endure and quite possibly put on one fabulous celestial show.

Talk about an astronomical cliffhanger.

Even the smartest scientists are reluctant to lay odds.

Should it survive, ISON, pronounced EYE'-sahn, would be visible with the naked eye through December, at least from the Northern Hemisphere.

Discernible at times in November with ordinary binoculars and occasionally even just the naked eye, it already has dazzled observers and is considered the most scrutinized comet ever by NASA. But the best is, potentially, yet to come.

Detected just over a year



In this photo provided by NASA, Comet ISON shows off its tail in this three-minute exposure taken on Nov. 19, 2013 at 6:10 a.m. EST, using a 14-inch telescope located at the Marshall Space Flight Center. The comet is just nine days away from its close encounter with the sun; hopefully it will survive to put on a nice show during the first week of December. At the time of this image, Comet ISON was some 44 million miles from the sun -- and 80 million miles from Earth -- moving at a speed of 136,700 miles per hour.

(AP Photo/NASA, Aaron Kingery)

ago, the comet is passing through the inner solar system for the first time. Still fresh, this comet is thought to bear the pristine matter of the beginning of our solar system.

It's believed to be straight from the Oort cloud on the fringes of the solar system, home to countless icy bodies, most notably the frozen balls of dust and gas in orbit around the sun known as comets. For whatever

reason, ISON was propelled out of this cloud and drawn toward the heart of the solar system by the sun's intense gravitational pull.

The closer the comet gets to the sun, the faster it gets. In January, it was clocked at 40,000 mph (64,000 kph). By last Thursday, with just a week to go, it had accelerated to 150,000 mph (240,000 kph).

On Thursday, the comet will zip within 730,000 miles

(1,175,000 kilometers) of the sun, less than the actual solar diameter. In other words, another sun wouldn't fit in the missed distance.

By the time ISON slingshots around the sun, it will be moving at a mind-boggling 828,000 mph (1,332,000 kph).

Whether it survives or is torn apart, earthlings have nothing to fear.

The comet will venture no closer to us than about 40

million miles (64 million kilometers), less than half the distance between Earth and the sun. That closest approach to Earth will occur Dec. 26. Then it will head away in the opposite direction forever, given its anticipated trajectory once it flies by the sun.

ISON is named after the International Scientific Optical Network, used by a pair of Russian astronomers to detect the comet in September 2012. But it officially is known as C/2012 S1, a designation indicating when it was discovered.

Take heart: The "C" means it is not expected here again.

NASA wasted no time jumping on ISON. The space agency's Deep Impact spacecraft observed ISON back in January from a distance of about 500 million miles (800 million kilometers).

Since then, the observations have stacked up.

Some sky gazers speculated early on that ISON might become the comet of the century because of its brightness, although expectations have dimmed over the past year. □

Space station turning 15; future up in the air

Eric Berger

© 2013 Houston Chronicle

The movie "Gravity" may have taken some liberties with the physics of outer space, but one thing it nailed was the scope of the International Space Station.

In the film, Americans were introduced to a research laboratory that's as large

as a football field and has living space comparable to the interior of two Boeing 747 jetliners.

Home to six astronauts, the massive space station turns 15 on Wednesday, at a time of both triumph and uncertainty.

The triumph comes because the station is beginning to produce tangible

scientific results, helping NASA understand the threats posed by long-duration spaceflight and spurring the development of commercial spacecraft to ferry cargo and astronauts to and from orbit.

The uncertainty concerns the station's fate, as a decision is likely to come next year about whether to de-orbit the station in 2020 or continue flying it until 2028.

"As the space station turns 15 years old it is a time for reflection - not of our past, but of our future," said Kirk Shireman, the Johnson Space Center's deputy director.

The station came into existence on Nov. 20, 1998, when the Russians launched a 42,600-pound

module to a location 240 miles above the Earth's surface. A few weeks later, space shuttle Endeavour, carrying the 25,000-pound Unity module, rendezvoused with the Russian equipment and connected the two modules. Astronauts have inhabited the station continuously since 2000.

With its construction completed in 2011, the station now weighs about 450 tons, equivalent to nearly 300 SUVs.

The space agency has indicated it would like to determine the station's fate sometime next year.

Boeing is close to completing an assessment of the station's lifetime, the goal of which is to certify the

structure for use for another 15 years.

"I feel extremely confident in saying it can last until 2028," Shannon said.

The question, then, is one of budget.

NASA will be seeking direction from the president and Congress about the future of its space program, and whether its exploration budget can support both continuing the space station and developing the next generation of spacecraft and hardware.

The risk, of course, is that if NASA decides to abandon the station in 2020, it would have nothing left for astronauts to do in space - nowhere to go, and no spacecraft or rockets to take them there. □

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BROOKS BARNES

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LOS ANGELES - The Chateau Marmont was still passed out. The only activity on the nearby RockWalk, where Tommy Lee's paw prints are set in cement, came from a pair of pigeons. Nary a needle was buzzing at Tattoo Mania.

But one outpost on this hard-partying stretch of Sunset Boulevard was not only up and at 'em on a recent Saturday morning, it was attracting such a crowd that tourists were arriving to take pictures. At 10:30, 24 people were waiting to get a table at the bustling Griddle Cafe. Within an hour, the line had swelled to nearly 50.

Pancakes that seemed to be the size of truck tires and every egg in the chicken coop are ostensibly the lure. (As the menu says, "Get Ready Luv!!!") But the Griddle, as it is known, also serves up the occasional bed-headed celebrity for the masses to ogle. "Glee" stars Lea Michele and Cory Monteith carb-loaded there less than two months before his July heroin overdose. Jessica Alba, Anne Hathaway, Alexander Skarsgard and Megan Fox have been photographed coming or going.

"Yes, we get stars who haven't been to sleep yet, a lot on weekdays, actually," said Daryl Orenge, one of the restaurant's managers. "No, I won't tell you who. We don't judge." (It's not a predawn soak-up-the-debauchery spot, either; the Griddle opens at 7 a.m. during the week and at 8 a.m. on weekends.)

Every big city has its share of one-of-a-kind canteens with weird cult followings, restaurants where the scene on the sidewalk rivals anything the kitchen serves up. Without them, the bulbous Guy Fieri would have no gravy to belch on "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." When it comes to breakfast on the West Coast, there is Hash House a Go Go in San Diego and, in San Francisco, the Red Door Cafe, which the owner has decorated with old

doll heads and sex toys.

But sunny Los Angeles seems to have no qualms about waiting in line. Maybe it's the weather. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that people here grew up with Disneyland queues? (Maybe?) Along with the Griddle, Los Angeles has mobbed comfort-food institutions like Roscoe's House of Chicken and Waffles, Tito's Tacos and Pink's Hot Dogs, which has dealt with its snaking line by installing stanchions and ropes.

"People come for the show," said Mary Melton, editor-in-chief of Los Angeles Magazine, speaking of the Griddle in particular. "It's like Katz's Deli in New York. That bowl of so-so soup is kind of beside the point."

She added: "Plus, there are so many people in LA who don't seem to work. They have time to stand and socialize."

Another magazine editor, Janice Min of The Hollywood Reporter, offered this analysis, having moved to Los Angeles from New York three years ago: "There is no discovery in LA because you're always in a car headed to a specific destination. And because of that, people become very attached to the same few places, whether the food is edible or not, and it is usually not."

Could Min imagine people in New York waiting an hour or more for pancakes at a grungy spot like the Griddle Cafe?

Insert a shriek of laughter here.

Even so, the show is going on the road. The Griddle's owner, Jodi Hartzel, who refers to herself as "the Willy Wonka of breakfast," will open a Las Vegas location next summer. San Francisco and New York extensions are possibilities, she said.

"Her customers include everyone from celebs and world leaders to soccer moms and college students, and everyone in between," said Sam Nazarian, chief executive of SBE Entertainment Group, a nightclub and restaurant

company that is taking the Griddle to Sin City as part of its SLS Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. "To me, that's the very essence of LA culture." "I loved eating breakfast out, but it was never quite what I imagined in my mind," said Hartzel, estimating that 800 to 1,000 customers now churn through on a busy Sunday. "My mom didn't really give us sweets," she said, recalling her childhood in the city's Van Nuys section. "So I guess the mad-scientist sugary menu is probably based on my deprivation." Sweet does not begin to describe it. One dish involves pancakes filled with butterscotch, caramel and walnuts and topped with whipped cream and powdered sugar.

And at least one item,



Diners pack the Griddle Cafe in Los Angeles, Nov. 9, 2013. The pancake house on Sunset Boulevard, which draws celebrities, locals and tourists there to ogle celebrities as they carb-load, is one of a number of comfort-food institutions in Los Angeles which are frequently mobbed. (Emily Berl/The New York Times)

Mounds of Pleasure, a stack of chocolate and coconut flapjacks buried in whipped cream, should come with a straw. After ordering it, Alicia Garcia, 28, decided her best plan of attack was to lift up the

plate and drain part of the ooze into an extra coffee cup.

Was it butter?

"No," she said, "Just melted whip cream and chocolate sauce."

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'Catching Fire' smokes competition with \$161.1M opening

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Moviegoers satiated their ap-

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" opened with \$161.1 million at the domestic weekend box of-

five opening. The result fell short of some expectations and failed to dethrone the year's big-

lion.

The marketplace largely ceded the weekend to "Catching Fire." The only other new wide release was Disney's Vince Vaughn comedy "Delivery Man," which sputtered to an \$8.2 million opening.

The box-office performance for "Catching Fire" establishes "Hunger Games," starring Jennifer Lawrence as the archer heroine of Suzanne Collins' young adult series, as among the elite franchises in movies. The budget nearly doubled from the original and Francis Lawrence took over directing duties from Gary Ross. "Catching Fire" received better reviews and drew a broader audience.

"When the first film was released, there was this idea that it was going to appeal largely to young girls," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "But

over time, it's skewing back toward male audiences. There's actually a lot of action, there's violence in the movie. It's crossing over to a much broader base."

The domestic opening for "Catching Fire" is the fourth best ever, following "The Avengers" (\$207 million), "Iron Man 3" and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II" (\$169 million). Record keeping, though, has become more complicated in recent years at the box office. Higher-priced 3-D or IMAX screenings can boost revenue, as can early screenings. "Catching Fire," which earned 8 percent of its gross from IMAX showings, counted \$25 million from Thursday night screenings among its weekend total. The original "Hunger Games" earned \$152.5 million in its opening weekend in March 2012, but didn't debut until midnight screenings Thursday. □



Jennifer Lawrence, left, as Katniss Everdeen and Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark in a scene from the film, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

(AP Photo/Murray Close)

petite for the "Hunger Games" franchise by making the sequel "Catching Fire" one of the year's biggest hits.

rice, according to studio estimates Sunday. It became the biggest November debut ever, as well as Lionsgate's most lucra-

gest box-office opening, "Iron Man 3" with \$174 million. But the film opened massively worldwide, taking in a total of \$307.7 mil-

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Expanding Social Security



PAUL KRUGMAN
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For many years there has been one overwhelming rule for people who wanted to be considered serious inside the Beltway. It was this: You must declare your willingness to cut Social Security in the name of "entitlement reform." It wasn't really about the numbers, which never supported the notion that Social Security faced an acute crisis. It was instead a sort of declaration of identity, a way to show that you were an establishment guy, willing to impose pain (on other people, as usual) in the name of fiscal responsibility.

But a funny thing has happened in the past year or so. Suddenly, we're hearing open discussion of the idea that Social Security should be expanded, not cut. Talk of Social Security expansion has even reached the Senate, with Tom Harkin introducing legislation that would increase benefits. A few days ago Sen. Elizabeth Warren gave a stirring floor speech making the case for expanded benefits.

Where is this coming from? One answer is that the fiscal scolds driving the cut-Social-Security orthodoxy have, deservedly, lost a lot of credibility over the past few years. (Giving the ludicrous Paul Ryan an award for fiscal responsibility? And where's my debt crisis?) Beyond that, America's overall retirement system is in big trouble. There's just one part of that system that's working well: Social Security. And this suggests that we should make that program stronger, not weaker.

Before I get there, however, let me briefly take on two bad arguments for cutting Social Security that you still hear a lot.

One is that we should raise the retirement age - currently 66, and scheduled to rise to 67 - because people are living longer. This sounds plausible until you look at exactly who is living longer. The rise in life expectancy, it turns out, is overwhelmingly a story about affluent, well-educated Americans. Those with lower incomes and less education have, at best, seen hardly any rise in life expectancy at age 65; in fact, those with less education have seen their life expectancy decline.

So this common argument amounts, in effect, to the notion that we can't let janitors retire because lawyers are living longer. And lower-income Americans, in case you haven't

noticed, are the people who need Social Security most.

The other argument is that seniors are doing just fine. Hey, their poverty rate is only 9 percent.

There are two big problems here. First, there are well-known flaws with the official poverty measure, and these flaws almost surely lead to serious understatement of elderly poverty. In an attempt to provide a more realistic picture, the Census Bureau now regularly releases a supplemental measure that most experts consider superior - and this measure puts senior poverty at 14.8 percent, close to the rate for younger adults.

Furthermore, the elderly poverty rate is highly likely to rise sharply in the future, as the failure of America's private pension system takes its toll.

When you look at today's older Americans, you are in large part looking at the legacy of an economy that is no more. Many workers used to have defined-benefit retirement plans, plans in which their employers guaranteed a steady income after retirement. And a fair number of seniors (like my father, until he passed away a few months ago) are still collecting benefits from such plans.

Today, however, workers who have any retirement plan at all generally have defined-contribution plans - basically, 401(k)s - in which employers put money into a tax-sheltered account that's supposed to end up big enough to retire on. The trouble is that at this point it's clear that the shift to 401(k)s was a gigantic failure. Employers took advantage of the switch to surreptitiously cut benefits; investment returns have been far lower than workers were told to expect; and, to be fair, many people haven't managed their money wisely.

As a result, we're looking at a looming retirement crisis, with tens of millions of Americans facing a sharp decline in living standards at the end of their working lives. For many, the only thing protecting them from abject penury will be Social Security. Aren't you glad we didn't privatize the program?

So there's a strong case for expanding, not contracting, Social Security. Yes, this would cost money, and it would require additional taxes - a suggestion that will horrify the fiscal scolds, who have been insisting that if we raise taxes at all, the proceeds must go to deficit reduction, not to making our lives better. But the fiscal scolds have been wrong about everything, and it's time to start thinking outside their box.

Realistically, Social Security expansion won't happen anytime soon. But it's an idea that deserves to be on the table - and it's a very good sign that it finally is. □



'Trouble Don't Last Always'



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2013 New York Times

There's an old Gospel song called "Trouble Don't Last Always." My mother has repeated that phrase so often that the words are written on my consciousness.

The lesson of that saying is always with me: Though your problems may be present, they are not permanent. Storms pass. That's why I have grown weary of the Democratic gnashing of teeth over the problems with the Obamacare rollout and the president's falling poll numbers. Panic lacks perspective. This situation should remind us of a few things:

Although we like to think of nearly everyone as ardently right or left, a significant portion of the electorate is closer to the middle. An October Esquire-NBC News poll put the number of American moderates as high as 51 percent of the population. Many of these people can swing one way or another based on the news of the day or the season.

As much as people like to talk about the Republican Party's being in its death throes, the party is still very much alive. Things don't like to die. They change. That change may be slow and hard, but as death draws near, change is often forced. The Republican Party

cannot sustain itself as a nationally viable party on its current path, but Republicans will eventually figure that out and a charismatic conservative will be able to sell the change.

Change is hard and often messy, and a movement and a messenger - the progressive cause and this president - whose whole identities are about change will always be linked to any discomfort that change brings.

You can't promise more than you can produce. When the president told people they could keep their doctors and current insurance plans and that turned out not to be true, that hurt his standing more than any issue with the website ever could. To most people, that sounds dishonest, and dishonesty is an easily understood and widely reviled trait.

Republicans are going to harp on Obamacare and highlight hardship stories for as long as they feel the story has legs - and that may be awhile. That happens in politics. You give your opponents a stick, and they'll whack you with it every time.

That being said, this is not the end of days for this president or his party - no more so than shutting down the government was the end of the Republican Party.

Here is what we must remember:

Obamacare is, in the end, good for America. A report this week from the Council of Economic Advisers found that since 2010, when the Affordable Care Act passed, "Health care spending is the lowest on record," and, "Health care price inflation is at its lowest rate in 50 years." The report also said the law had "substantially improved the long-term federal budget outlook."

Not only must we lower health care costs so they don't bankrupt us; we must improve our

health care system, something Obamacare aims to do. Right now, we spend more than any other country on health care and still don't have the best health outcomes. To quote from a PBS NewsHour report last year, in the United States:

- There are fewer physicians per person than in most other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries.

- The number of hospital beds in the U.S. was 2.6 per 1,000 population in 2009, lower than the OECD average of 3.4 beds.

- Life expectancy at birth increased by almost nine years between 1960 and 2010, but that's less than the increase of over 15 years in Japan and over 11 years on average in OECD countries.

Fixing our health care system is not only right from a budget and policy perspective; it's morally right. No one should be turned down for health coverage because of pre-existing conditions. No one should have to live in fear of going broke from getting sick. No one should have to use emergency rooms as his or her only option. As Martin Luther King Jr. once put it, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Every policy change - particularly large ones - will have winners and losers. For now, the Republicans will keep highlighting the losers. Democrats must keep highlighting the winners, while reminding people that data points are not the data set. In the end, this health care law will be judged by its overall effects on the population and the economy, which I wager will be a net positive.

Anger is exhausting. It eventually subsidizes, memories fade and the media turn away to chase another ambulance.

As my mother would say, "Trouble don't last always." □

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